

REMARKS

This is a full and timely response to the outstanding final Office Action mailed August 21, 2006. In the Office Action, claims 1-9 and 14-19 were preliminarily rejected as allegedly being anticipated under 35 USC §102(a). In addition, claims 11, 12, 18, and 25-29 have been objected to. Further, claims 10, 13, and 20-29 have been allowed. In the current Response, claims 25-29 have been amended.

Allowed Claims

The Applicants thank the Examiner for acknowledging allowance of claims 10, 13, and 20-29.

Claim Objections

In the Office Action, claims 11; 12, 18, and 25-29 have been objected to. Claims 11 and 12 have been objected to as allegedly being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but being allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitation of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 11 and 12 depend from allowed independent claim 10. If independent claim 10 is allowable over the prior art of record, then its dependent claims 11 and 12 are allowable as a matter of law. *In re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071 (Fed. Cir. 1988).

Claim 18 has been cancelled to place the present application in condition for allowance. Claims 25-29 have been amended to address their objection. Specifically, amendments have been made to claims 25-29 in a manner similar to amendments previously made to claims 7 and 8.

In summary, the Applicants respectfully request allowance of claims 11, 12, and 25-29.

RESPONSE TO CLAIM REJECTIONS BASED ON ANTICIPATION

In the Office Action, claims 1-9 and 14-19 have been preliminarily rejected under 35 USC§103(a) as allegedly being anticipated by Kargl, Frank, et al. In response, the Applicants have cancelled claims 1-9 and 14-19, thereby placing the application in condition for allowance.

PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME

Applicant petitions to extend the time for filing the Amendment After Final in response to the Final Office Action dated August 21, 2006 in the subject application for one (1) month, from November 21, 2006 to December 21, 2006. A Petition for Extension of time is submitted concurrently herewith.

AUTHORIZATION TO CHARGE/CREDIT DEPOSIT ACCOUNT

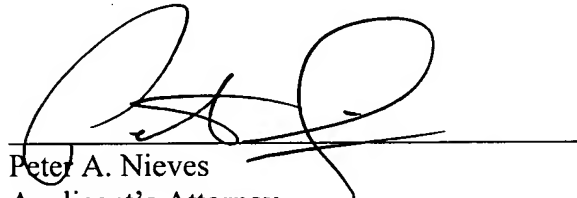
Authorization to charge Deposit Account No. 501304 is hereby granted for a one-month extension of time in the amount of \$60. It is not believed that additional fees for net addition of claims are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this response. However, in the event that additional extensions of time and/or payment of fees are necessary to allow consideration of this response, such extensions and/or payments of fees are hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) and are hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 501304.

CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing and for at least the reasons set forth above, the Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application and the presently pending claims. If in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephonic conference would expedite the examination of this matter, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (603) 627-8134.

Respectfully submitted,

SHEEHAN, PHINNEY, BASS + GREEN, P.A.



Peter A. Nieves
Applicant's Attorney
Reg. No.: 48,173

Customer No.: 57449
SHEEHAN PHINNEY BASS + GREEN, P.A.
1000 ELM STREET
MANCHESTER, NH 03101 U.S.A.
TEL: 603.668-0300
FAX: 603.627.8121